

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 5, 2016

- WHAT:** UMass FAC Opens Season with Alan Cumming
- WHEN:** Saturday, September 24, 8 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall  
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/Pressimages>

#### Alan Cumming Opens Season at UMass FAC

Eat. Art. Love. That's the theme of the UMass Fine Arts Center's 2016-17 season: Experience the nourishing power of the arts. Our inspiration comes from Les 7 Doigts de le Main's *Cuisine & Confessions*, one of many exciting events in our line-up this season. As the actors/acrobats dance, bounce, flip, and soar their way through this dazzling show, they also manage to cook banana bread, omelets, and pasta onstage. The message is that life happens in the kitchen and onstage — and that art is food and drink for the soul.

Opening the season, actor, singer, author, and activist Alan Cumming brings his smash-hit stage show, *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs*, to UMass on Saturday, September 24, at 8 p.m. Backed by a trio of musicians, he'll perform his favorite covers, along with some pretty amazing stories. Ticket-holders are invited to the season opening party in the lobby at 6:30 p.m. with desserts and cash bar.

Cumming premiered *Sappy Songs* in 2015 at the legendary Café Carlyle in New York, then took it on an extensive tour to venues in the United States, Canada, and Australia, and Scotland. This past spring, the show returned to New York, where Cumming made his sold-out, solo debut at Carnegie Hall and released a live album of the same name.

An iconic performer of stage and screen, Cumming played Eli Gold on CBS's *The Good Wife* stole the show as the Tony Award-winning Emcee in *Cabaret*, and currently hosts PBS's *Masterpiece Mystery*. He is the author of two books; *Tommy's Tale* and his memoir, a *New York Times* best-seller, *Not My Father's Son*. A tireless champion for LGBT civil rights and HIV/AIDS charities, Cumming serves on the board of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and works closely with amfAR, The Trevor Project, and the Ali Forney Center, to name but a few.

Tickets for *Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs* are \$75, \$70, \$30; Five College student and youth (17-and-under) tickets, \$30, \$25, \$20; and are available for a subscription discount. For tickets, call the box office at 545-2511 or toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase them online at [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com). This event is sponsored by *The Rainbow Times*, UMass Catering, and WGBY TV 57.

As the season unfolds, there's more delicious fare. On the menu are music, dance, and theater of diverse genres, from around the world, including the *fados* of Portuguese diva Mariza, the inspiring dance of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and the Dublin romance of the Broadway musical *Once* (complete with a pub on stage). Barbara Abdeni Massaad will talk about her cookbook *Soup for Syria*, a beautiful collection of recipes and photographs created to raise money for refugee food relief, and Sally Butcher, a London blogger and prolific cookbook author, will talk about salads around the world. We're also collecting recipes from artists, staff, and fans, to be entered into a contest, with prizes awarded throughout the season.

Hungry for more? The FAC and select area restaurants are partnering once again to offer great discounts through our Artful Palate & Pillow program ("Pillow" discounts for hotel accommodations). Single-ticket buyers receive a discount on the nights of performances. Subscribers receive discounts on any night, not just performance nights, throughout the FAC season. Subscribers could end up saving anywhere from 25 to 35 percent on an evening out. Details and links to participating hotels and restaurants at [www.fineartscenter.com/artfulpalate](http://www.fineartscenter.com/artfulpalate).

In addition to the performances, the FAC provides numerous opportunities — workshops, preconcert talks, artist interviews, escorted trips, and films, and more — to gain a deeper understanding of art and culture. The FAC hosts two galleries and a museum, too. Augusta Savage Gallery, Hampden Gallery, and the University Museum of Contemporary Art exhibit contemporary art by campus, local, and internationally renowned artists in all media. Visit [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com) for more information.

For a complete season listing (see our quick menu below), call the box office for a brochure or visit our website, where you can find videos, links to artists' web and social sites, and visitor info. The FAC offers a wide range of ticket prices, starting at \$10. Youth, Five College, and GCC student tickets range from \$5 to \$30. There is also the create-your-own subscription package: choose three or more events and save 15 percent off the adult regular ticket price (price range A & B.) Price-range-C tickets remain at the affordable price of \$15-\$20.

Subscriptions and single tickets, on sale now, can be purchased by phone, 413- 545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS, or via our secure website, [www.fineartscenter.com](http://www.fineartscenter.com). For smart phone users, the FAC has a mobile site.

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High-resolution photos are available at [www.fineartscenter.com/pressroom](http://www.fineartscenter.com/pressroom)

## **UMASS FINE ARTS CENTER SEASON MENU**

### **DANCE**

**TAKAO KAWAGUCHI: ABOUT KAZUO OHNO**

Wednesday, October 5

**CONTRA-TIEMPO | URBAN LATIN DANCE THEATER**

Thursday, October 6

**SACRED DANCES AND LEGENDS OF HAWAII**

**Michael Pili Pang and the Halau Hula Ka No'eau Ensemble**

Thursday, February 9

**SYDNEY DANCE COMPANY**

Tuesday, February 28

**ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER**

Tuesday, April 25

**WORLD MUSIC**

**MARIZA**

Thursday, October 20

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MASTER**

**Alam Khan, Sarode, Nitin Mitta, Tabla**

Saturday, November 5

**THE SEEKER OF TRUTH: YUVAL RON ENSEMBLE**

Thursday, February 23

**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**OTHELLO IN THE SERAGLIO, *The Tragedy of Sümbül the Black Eunuch***

Friday, October 14

**WARSAW PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**Seong-Jin Cho, piano**

Sunday, October 30

**SIMON POWIS, guitar**

Saturday, November 12

**JASON VIEAUX, guitar**

Tuesday, April 4

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE FINE ARTS CENTER GALA, AUCTION AND PREVIEW**

Saturday, February 4

**JAZZ**

**MARCUS ROBERTS TRIO**

Thursday, November 3

**ANTONIO SANCHEZ: BIRDMAN LIVE**

**Film and Live Drum Score**

Tuesday, November 15

**JELLY and GEORGE: CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF JELLY ROLL MORTON AND GEORGE GERSHWIN**

**AARON DIEHL and CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT**

Thursday, February 16

**TERENCE BLANCHARD**

**Featuring THE E-COLLECTIVE**

Saturday, April 8

**MUSICAL THEATER/CIRQUE/PUPPET THEATER**

**THE SHANGHAI ACROBATS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

Wednesday, November 9

**ONCE**

Thursday, December 1

**LES 7 DOIGTS DE LA MAIN: CUISINE & CONFESSIONS**

Thursday, March 23

**SHANK'S MARE: HIZAKURIGE**

**Koryu Nishikawa V and Tom Lee**

Thursday, March 30

**SOLOS & DUOS/MAGIC TRIANGLE**

**WADADA LEO SMITH/VIJAY IYER DUO**

Tuesday, September 27

**ANTHONY DAVIS/JASON ROBINSON DUO**

Sunday, November 13

**MARC RIBOT**

Thursday, December 8

**OGJB QUARTET: OLIVER LAKE, GRAHAM HAYNES, JOE FONDA, AND BARRY ALTSCHUL**

Sunday, March 5

**MARY HALVORSON, REVERSE BLUE**

Monday, March 27

**TOMAS FUJIWARA & THE HOOK-UP**

Thursday, April 27

**FILM**

**New Asia Cinema**

**CONTEMPORARY TRAILBLAZERS: ARAB AND ASIAN WOMEN FILMMAKERS**

**September-December, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Flavin Family Auditorium, Isenberg School of Management, FREE**

**THE LUNCHBOX**  
Monday, October 17 at 7 p.m., Amherst Cinema

## **FREE EVENTS!**

**SOUP FOR SYRIA: BARBARA ABDENI MASSAAD**  
Monday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m., Bowker Auditorium

**WHEN CONSTANTINOPLE BECAME ISTANBUL: ART OF ENCOUNTER IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**  
Thursday, October 6, 7:30 p.m., Smith College, FREE

**PRISCILLA PAGE and LAYAALI**  
October 11, 7 p.m., Augusta Savage Gallery, FREE

**IFA BAYEZA and EVELYN HARRIS**  
October 12, 7 p.m., Augusta Savage Gallery, FREE

**PHYLLIS KORNFELD and CHRIS TINSON**  
**INCARCERATION: TOWARD A NEW SOCIETY**  
October 13, 7 p.m., Augusta Savage Gallery, FREE

**LYDIA CORTES and ART STEELE BLUES BAND**  
October 14, 7 p.m., Augusta Savage Gallery, FREE

**RAGAMALA: MUSIC, PAINTING, AND MANUSCRIPTS IN COURTLY INDIA**  
Thursday, November 3, 6:30 p.m. Pruyne Lecture Hall, Fayerweather Hall, Amherst College, FREE

**RHYTHMS FOR INDIA: PERCUSSION WORKSHOP WITH TABLA MAESTRO NITIN MITTA**  
Friday, November 4, Gateway City Arts, Holyoke MA, 7-9 p.m. FREE

**“MY HEART IS IN THE EAST” – SACRED HEBREW MUSIC OF THE MIDDLE EAST WITH YUVAL  
RON**  
Wednesday, February 22, The Arts Block, Greenfield, Massachusetts, 7 p.m. FREE